

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 4, line 19, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 3 illustrates the neuromedin- $\beta$  protein sequences alignment of *Homo sapiens* (human) (SEQ ID NO: 10) and *Mus musculus* (mouse) (SEQ ID NO: 11); --

On page 4, line 23, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 5 illustrates the genomic sequences of wild-type (from NCBI) (SEQ ID NO: 12) and mutant Neuromedin  $\beta$  (SEQ ID NO: 13) (NCBI and home-made sequencing) alignment. --

On page 5, line 1, please replace the original paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig 7 illustrates neuromedin- $\beta$  single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (SEQ ID NOs: 14-35) in accordance with the present invention. --